

News of the Green Room and Foyer

Some of the More Important Doings of these, Our Actors.

AUGUSTIN DALY'S LIFE WORK

List of Some of the Noted Players He Has Educated—Sardou Is Not a Plagiarist—Other Notes About Clever Entertainers.

Her hat she took within her hand,
Just on the seat before me,
Delicately the act was planned
So as to not ignore me.

I knew the girl who cared for those
Who have a heart behind her
Must have rare virtues to disclose—
So in my heart I twined her.

I got what others lost that day,
The stage's perfect vision;
I saw the actors and the play,
And all the scene's elysian.

I could have written in her praise
A string of sugared sonnets;
So few the girls at matinees
Who dare take off their bonnets.

At last I caught, with fancy free,
My angel to discover;
And made her give her heart to me—
And now I am her lover.

—Joel Denton.

The recent presentation to Augustin Daly of the Letare medal voted annually by the faculty of Notre Dame university to some person who has attained eminence in art or letters receives interest in the personality and career of this noted manager. Apropos, one writer, says: "Augustin Daly has made money in the theater, but his contributions to the stage have been more valuable than his receipts at the box office. The number of excellent actors that have graduated in art under this manager's tuition is remarkable. He can turn a nobody into a celebrity better than any teacher in the profession. The only exception to this rule is that offered by Henry E. Dixey. Adonis Marble was a great man before he joined Daly's company. He is not so renowned now, but he is on the road to comedy. Few of the earlier pupils of Daly's theater gave any promise of the distinction which they afterward attained. James Lewis, a country schoolmaster; Mrs. Gilbert, originally a ballet dancer, Ada Rehman and John Drew, mere novices; Clara Morris, an uncouth, awkward western girl; Fanny Davenport, a youngster of decided although immature talent; Ada Dyer, Linda Dietz, Effie Shannon, Otis Skinner, Fanny Morant, Yorkie Stephens and many other actors of present eminence began their first practical studies of the drama at Daly's. This manager is a hard taskmaster. But he turns out pupils who make their way in the world. New Yorkers all remember the awkward, clumsy figure cut by Arthur Bourchier on his first appearance at Daly's. After two seasons of training the young Englishman learned his trade. Arthur Bourchier is now starting through the English provinces in Shakespearean roles, with, it is stated, tolerable success even in Hamlet. In these circumstances it is known what Dixey is, but know not what he may be. His Malvolio at present lacks ease, it is self-conscious and is wanting in that quaint, eccentric humor which Barton Hall has so finely lent to the character. But with Mr. Dixey's talent and Mr. Daly's skill in its direction it is reasonable to look forward to the time when the comedian will catch the spirit of Shakespeare as happily as he grasped that of burlesque."

A new play was added to the "Dido-Sardou-Write-Em" discussion by a letter from Miss Elizabeth Marbury, who is Sardou's agent in this country. The letter was printed in the World and was as follows:

Now that "A Woman's Silence" is a success, as Victorien Sardou's representative in this country, I wish to state to the World, in reply to one or two critics who have recently expressed some doubt as to authenticity as to his proclaimed authorship in connection with the play, that there is no living dramatist more earnest and personal in his work than is M. Sardou. Certain writers have gone so far as to assert that he has a trained body of secretaries who do his literary assistance. The fact, let me mention, is that Sardou does not even employ one secretary, and the patient industry with which he writes every line, indicates his large business, and elaborates each detail of a manuscript, gives evidence of an energy which is untrifling and of a fidelity which is rare.

Concerning the plays which he has written during the past year, namely, "Thermidor," "Americans Abroad," "Madame Sans Gêne," "A Woman's Silence," "Gismonda," I have at hand documentary evidence, in the shape of a vast correspondence and of manuscripts in various editions, to substantiate the fact that there is an acknowledged collaboration; Sardou, and Sardou alone, is the author of the above dramas. That Emile Moreau is co-author with him of "Madame Sans Gêne," "A Woman's Silence," "Gismonda," is a matter which has been advertised as is Sardou himself. Before closing let me add that "A Woman's Silence" will be produced at a leading Paris theater within a few months, and that since its first performance here contracts have been signed with Manager J. Comyns Carr of the Comedy theatre, London, who will make it his first production. In the "Warr of Emery in the role of Dorothea March."

Miss Marbury knows what she is talking about, too.

There are many plays with dual roles for actors. Prominent among them may be mentioned "Henry Dunbar," produced by Lester Wallack 20 years ago, "The Corsican Brothers," "The Lion's Mail," "A Man's Shadow," "John Needham's Double," "Estelle," "Samuel Broche and Company," "Deacon Brodie," and "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Very few plays, however, have been written dual roles for actresses. There are, of course, the "New Magdalena" and "The Woman in White," but the only contemporaneous case, according to the Buffalo Express, of a play in which an actress plays two parts in the same performance is that of Val Wright in "Magnus and Lancaster's" drama, "Daughters of Eve," wherein Miss Wainwright skillfully differentiates the characters of the two sisters, one in society and the other fallen from it.

Amy Leslie talks about entertaining plays with her usual frankness. She says: "If publishers dared what managers do, people would stop reading books. Imagine the vain endeavor of trying to choke the public with season after season of 'Dodo,' 'Tribby,' 'Tess-o'-Urberville,' 'The Little Minister,' and 'Kipling's Jungle Books.' Any one of these sensations has more of art in it than Pinero ever knew and more of music than all the mining song-writers of farce could dream, yet the twentieth edition of either astounds enthusiasts and a steady run for over three years waxes incredible."

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A new coming in favor. Notwithstanding these improvements and the great beauty of tone that the harp possesses, the use of it has for years past been declining. The great cost of a harp and the trouble of tuning may have led to the supplanting of the harp by the more convenient pianoforte. With this comes naturally a diminution in the number of solo players. Were it not for the increasing use of the harp in the orchestra, we should perhaps know little more of it than we do of the dulcimer, in spite of the efforts of distinguished virtuosi whose devotion to their instrument maintains its technical and artistic position with that of any other, even the most in public favor. During the last year or two the harp seems to be coming back to favor as a solo instrument. In Boston, Chicago, New York and other cities, it is quite the thing for afternoon receptions and parlor concerts. This may be due to the fact that during the last few years several harpists have come over here from abroad and have shown us what fine music can be played on the harp.

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If more people would take up the harp and study it for a year or two they would find that their services would be in great demand. If one can play only fairly well on the harp people always like it, when if one plays the piano they have to be able to do something wonderful if they want any attention. Harps can be rented, and second hand instruments bought for reasonable prices, and the firm of Erard have an agency in Boston where one can purchase any style of a Grand harp.

The harp is gaining ground slowly, but sure, and it will soon be "the" instrument among the fashionable and cultured musicians.

Gertrude Holyoke French.

PIANO PLAYERS' FAULTS.

Nine Out of Ten Let the Left Hand Lead the Right.

From the New York Sun.

A well known piano teacher says that one of the most common faults in piano playing is the practice of playing the two hands out of time with each other. Nine players out of every ten make the left hand to lead the right, when the two should strike the keys simultaneously. Of course there are rare cases where this dilatoriness of the right hand may be legitimate, but it should be remembered that in general it is reprehensible and should be carefully avoided.

If the composer indicates the simultaneous performance of the notes belonging to the two hands, let not the slightest discrepancy be manifest. To play the two hands out of time with each other is to be not only inaccurate, but to appear affected. Shallow players resort to such devices to cover up the lack of ability to play with expression. It takes the place of shading and phrasing with the superficial.

THREE STORIES